



# NACBH

National Association for Children's Behavioral Health

# NEWS

October 16, 2020

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## PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

### Additional Provider Relief Funds Available



For any who missed the October 5 NACBH [News Flash](#), HHS announced \$20 billion in Phase 3 Provider Relief funding and is accepting applications from eligible providers until November 6.

Brief recap: The Provider Relief Fund is rolling out in phases. Phase I was a general distribution to Medicare fee-for-service providers. Phase 2 was a general distribution to Medicaid/CHIP providers, Medicaid managed care plans, dentists, certain Medicare providers, and assisted living facilities. In addition, there were targeted distributions for hospitals that were highly impacted by COVID-19, rural providers, skilled nursing facilities, tribal and Indian Health Service providers, and safety net hospitals, respectively. These targeted distributions were followed by a second application period for the Phase 2 general distribution, primarily for providers who had received a payment based only on their Medicare fee-for-service billing but were also Medicaid providers who hadn't yet received 2% of their overall annual patient care revenue. [Continue Reading](#)

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### Provider Relief: Medicaid Directors Again Request Active Engagement with HHS

In late April, the National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD) [wrote](#) to HHS Secretary Alex Azar, requesting the department's immediate engagement with State Medicaid Directors to plan the distribution of supplemental funding to providers, as well as greater transparency on the amounts awarded to specific providers to inform state decisions on additional fiscal relief. NAMD pointed out that state Medicaid agencies have critical information about the solvency of providers at imminent risk of closure and the most effective means to distribute funding. NAMD highlighted particular provider categories whose claims data are not directly visible within federal data sources, such as behavioral health providers, home and community-based providers, children's hospitals, school-based providers, pediatricians, and maternal health providers. [Keep Reading](#)

## HHS Extends Public Health Emergency



On October 5, HHS Secretary Azar [renewed](#) the declaration of the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) which would have expired on October 23. The 90-day renewal extends the PHE through January 20, 2021 (coincidentally, Inauguration Day). The previous two renewals, in April and July, provided only several days' advance notice to states and providers delivering services under expanded PHE flexibilities.

As earlier [reported](#), appendices to an August 25 MACPAC letter lay out the emergency response policies allowed by the PHE declaration, the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and the National Emergencies Act, as well as the Medicaid and CHIP flexibilities available to states under Section 1135 blanket waivers. [Continue Reading](#)

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## CMS and ACF Issue Joint Guidance on Family-Focused Residential SUD Treatment

As required by the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, CMS and the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) have issued comprehensive guidance reviewing the existing flexibilities within Medicaid to provide family-focused residential treatment for substance use disorders, and how the IV-E foster care program can support placing children with their parents in these programs. The [Joint Informational Bulletin](#) reviews a variety of Medicaid state plan authorities, benefit categories, and waivers that states may use to cover parents' treatment, and how to coordinate Medicaid funding with IV-E and other federal funding to serve both parents and the children placed with them. [Keep Reading](#)

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### Webinar: How to Develop a Competitive SAMHSA Grant Application

October 22, 2:00 p.m. Eastern

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will host this webinar to review:

- The four registration processes that grant applicants need to complete
- Preparing to apply for a grant
- Key components of a funding opportunity announcement
- Responding effectively to evaluation criteria

- Resources and technical assistance that are available

To receive information about how to access the webinar and/or the slides, send an email to: [GPOtraining@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:GPOtraining@samhsa.hhs.gov). More information about training events and reference materials for applicants and grantees is available [here](#).

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## **Webinar: Supporting Parents, Infants, Young Children, and the Workforce that Serves Them**

October 27, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m Eastern



The Early Childhood Program at the Institute for Innovation and Implementation will invite discussion of challenges and solutions to support family and provider well-being in the context of the current learning landscape. As communities continue to respond and adjust during COVID-19, parents and caregivers are

increasingly concerned about addressing the competing needs of children's daily schedules and behavioral needs when all are dealing with grief, anxiety and managing the ongoing uncertainty. [Continue Reading](#)

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## **Webinar: Supporting Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs During COVID-19**

October 27, 3:00 Eastern



Jointly sponsored by Manatt Health, the American Academy of Pediatrics, Family Voices, and the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, this webinar will explore how child advocates and families can work with state Medicaid agencies to enforce coverage requirements and make permanent the temporary regulatory flexibilities that have expanded

access to services during the pandemic. Key topics will include:

- Understanding state obligations under federal law for providing services to children during the pandemic
- Ensuring access to home health care services to keep children safely at home
- Addressing loss of services due to school closures
- Creating opportunities for collaboration between state agencies, providers, schools and families
- Monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on access to Medicaid services for children with special health care needs

Register [here](#).



## Webinar: Resilience and Racial Equity

November 10, 2:00 p.m. Eastern

The Devereux Center for Resilient Children has designed this webinar to explore the intersections of risk, protection, resilience, social-emotional learning and racism. The protective factors of healthy relationships, self-regulation, initiative, and internal beliefs can fortify both children and adults in creating culturally responsive and sustaining environments, where Black and Brown children's identities can be amplified and empowered. Register [here](#).

## Free Online Mini-Course: Evidence-Based Implementation



The Center for Implementation is offering free enrollment until November 6 in their online mini-course on implementation science. [Inspiring Change 2.0: Creating Impact With Evidence-Based Implementation](#) is designed to help participants:

- Understand what evidence-based implementation is and how to proactively plan for change
- Discover how process models, theories, and frameworks can be the backbone of your change plan
- Be inspired to use behavior change theory
- Be more purposeful with your time, by addressing high-priority areas and anticipating resistance to change
- Learn simple tips and tricks that can set you up for success.

## CONFERENCE



### *The Future of Children's Behavioral Health*

Join NACBH members and other children's behavioral health providers at the 2020 [Virtual Emerging Best Practices Conference](#). Registration is open for our virtual, three-day event helping you put together the puzzle pieces of the Future of Children's Behavioral Health -- from telehealth, pandemic impacts on community-based services, evidence-based family therapy treatment and more. The program will include two tracks of breakout sessions, designed to meet the needs of

administrative and clinical leaders. Reserve your virtual seat today to be a part of the timely and thought-provoking discussion within a trusted and transparent professional network.

Visit the [event page](#) and [updated agenda](#) for more information.

Can't make the live stream dates? Sessions will be recorded and published for viewing post-conference, register and watch at a time that works for you!

Questions about the conference? Contact [info@nacbh.org](mailto:info@nacbh.org)

National Association for Children's Behavioral Health | 201 East Main Street,  
Lexington, KY 40507 | [nacbh.org](http://nacbh.org)